looking at the whole situation, the Government of India formulated a draft Postal Policy in 1999. But, still this Policy for inducting modern technology, private participation, etc., is hanging fire in the Ministry. I would like to know from the Minister as to why the Ministry has taken more than five years to bring the Policy before the Parliament.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: It is under consideration, Sir.

Agreement between India and Nepal

*23. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA†:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of Nepalese Prime Minister to New Delhi, any agreement or Memorandum of understanding was signed, extending Indian support to fight the maoist insurgency in Nepal; and

(b) the details of specific issues discussed and decisions arrived at as a result thereof and the follow up action taken so far by the two Governments to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) All issues of common concern and interest including the problem of Maoist insurgency were discussed during the visit of Prime Minister of Nepal to India from September 8—12, 2004.

No Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding, extending Indian support to fight the Maoist insurgency in Nepal, was signed during the visit of Prime Minister of Nepal to India. However, the Government of India is committed to strengthening bilateral cooperation in diverse areas, including security related cooperation, with His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

श्री कलराज मिश्र: मान्यवर, माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो उत्तर दिया है, वह प्रश्न का जो पहला भाग है, उसका पूर्ण उत्तर नहीं है। मैंने पूछा था कि क्या हाल में नेपाल के प्रधानमंत्री की नई दिल्ली यात्रा के दौरान, नेपाल में माओवादियों के विद्रोह से निपटने के लिए भारतीय सहायता उपलब्ध कराने के संबंध में किसी करार या सहमति-ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए थे? प्रश्न के दूसरे भाग में हमने यह पूछा था कि चर्चा किए गए विशिष्ट मुद्दों और इसके परिणामस्वरूप लिए गए निर्णयों का ब्यौरा क्या है?

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kalraj Mishra.

मान्यवर, उत्तर दिया गया है कि हस्ताक्षर नहीं हुए, यह बात तो सही है लेकिन जो चर्चा हुई और चर्चा किन-किन विशिष्ट मुद्दों को लेकर हुई, इसके बारे में जो ब्यौरे-वार जानकारी है, वह नहीं दी गई है। मैं इस संदर्भ में कहना चाहता हूं कि जो भारत-नेपाल की सीमा है, वह बड़ी संवेदनशील सीमा है। भारत से काफी अपराधी भागकर नेपाल में चले जाते हैं, साथ ही साथ कुछ नक्सलवादी, आई॰ एस॰ आई॰ के लोग नेपाल में जाकर भारत विरोधी अभियान चला रहे हैं और ऐसे माओवादी लोगों को संरक्षण प्रदान कर रहे हैं। क्या वार्ता के दौरान, विचार-विमर्श के दौरान ऐसे माओवादियों को नियंत्रित करने की दिशा में नेपाल सरकार से वार्ता हुई? इसके बारे में अगर जानकारी मिल सके तो अच्छा होगा।

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Sir, may I just inform the hon. Member that the question was whether, with respect to insurgency, any Memorandum of Understanding has been signed. As a matter of fact, there was no Memorandum of Understanding on insurgency.

श्री कलराज मिश्र: यह तो मैंने मान लिया है।

SHRI E. AHAMMED: At the same time, we have mentioned that the Government of India is committed to strengthening bilateral cooperation in divese areas, including security-related cooperation. Since the hon. Member has put this question to me, I would like to mention some of the highlights of the visit of Shri Sher Bahadur Deuba, the Prime Minister of Nepal, between September 8 and 12, 2004. The two Prime Ministers held wide-ranging discussions on the various aspects of bilateral cooperation. The issues *inter alia* included are security cooperation, extradition treaty and agreement on mutual legal assistance on criminal matters, demarcation of the boundary, cooperation on water resources, etc.

I would like to mention the four documents which were concluded during the visit, that is, the agreement on cooperation in the field of culture and sports; the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of weather forecasting; bilateral cooperation agreement between the Bureau of Indian Standards and the Nepal Bureau of Standards and the fourth one was the agreement between the Indian Oil Corporation and the Nepal Oil Corporation for setting up a joint venture regarding the construction of an oil pipeline between Raxaul in India and Amlekhanj in Nepal. India is taking it as a very sensitive issue. India is taking all kinds of steps and doing everything possible. Taking into account that Nepal is our neighbouring country and is nearer to our border, we are very much

sensitive about Nepal's stability and tranquility. The Government of India is doing whatever is necessary in this direction.

श्री कलराज मिश्र: मान्यवर, चर्चा के दौरान जो प्रश्न विशेष रूप से उभरकर आया है, उस में जिस ढंग से माओवादी हिंसात्मक कार्यवाही कर रहे हैं और भारत से गए अपराधियों और आई॰एस॰आई॰ की गतिविधियों को संरक्षण प्रदान करने के उनके प्रयत्न चल रहे हैं, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि नेपाल की तरफ से जिस तरीके से उन गतिविधियों को नियंत्रित करने की दिशा में प्रयत्न किए जाने चाहिए थे, वे हो रहे हैं या नहीं और कौन से कदम उस बारे में उठाए गए हैं? साथ ही नेपाल में जितने भारतीय व्यापारी रह रहे हैं, उन को माओवादियों द्वारा धमकाया गया है कि आप तुरंत नेपाल छोड़ दीजिए। मान्यवर, ऐसी 35 कंपनियां हैं, जिनमें भारतीय कंपनियां भी हैं, जिनको साफ तौर पर धमकाया गया है कि यहां से नहीं जाओगे तो जान से हाथ धोना पड़ेगा। इस कारण वे कंपनियां भाग रही हैं, भारतीय व्यापारी भाग रहे हैं, तो उन माओवादियों को नियंत्रित करने की दिशा में और व्यापारियों को वहीं रखने की दिशा में क्या भारत सरकार ने नेपाल सरकार से वार्ता की है और अगर की है तो उसका विवरण क्या है?

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government of India is concerned about the security situation in Nepal. In view of the open borders between the two countries, the surge of mass insurgency is resulting in adverse implications, particularly in our border States. As the hon. Member has mentioned, whenever these issues have come before the Government, we have taken up the matter with the Nepali Government and the Nepali Government has assured us that all security and safety measures with respect to India's interests would be taken. We are concerned about the links between the Nepali Maoist and the Left Wing Extremist Groups, as well as the Indian insurgent groups in the North East. The Maoist insurgency in Nepal has fuelled migration of Nepalese into our border States. The Government of India has taken all necessary steps to maintain the internal security and also the border security; especially the SSP is also taking care of it. The Government is very much sensitive about the issue.

SHRI LALIT SURI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has answered the question partly. A worker, who belongs to Nepal, commits a crime in India, especially in a metro city and runs away to Nepal or escapes to Nepal and also the Indian criminals commit a crime here and go to Nepal. I would like to know whether an agreement could be executed wherein a

time-frame could be fixed in order to bring the criminals, especially of Nepali origin, back to India.

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Sir, the hon. member has put a general question. In general, I would like to say that the Extradition Treaty between the two countries is going to be revised and discussion about the legal framework is going on. An understanding and an agreement will be reached very soon. I hope that will solve these problems also.

DR. P.C. ALEXANDER: The hon. Minister's answer says that among various items, security related cooperation had also been discussed. Did the Government get the impression that the Nepali Government was handling the problem of insurgency adequately and in time? I am compelled to raise this question because according to a well-researched paper published in The *Economist* magazine of London, 68 out of 75 districts in Nepal are now considered to be under the control of the Naxal elements and insurgents and the police have withdrawn from there. And further the Reports say that they are now coming near our own borders and they are trying to link Nepal through Bihar and Dandakaranya with the Southern States and carve out a revolutionary zone. So, insurgency in Nepal is not merely an internal matter of Nepal. Is the Government aware of the fact that we have to deal with this problem as if it is also a matter relating to our own security? If so, what further measures will the Government consider in order to make the Nepalese Government take this issue in a more serious way than what is appearing to be done at present?

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Sir, the relationship between India and Nepal is a relationship between two sovereign States. As Nepal is our border State having a very large open boundary, we are very much careful to maintain security so far as our part of the boundary is concerned. At the same time, all these matters are well known to the Nepalese Government, and we have been only helping them by providing them whatever help they have sought for; that is, they have asked for rifles, ammunitions and helicopters. All these things we have supplied them. We hope that the Nepalese Government is very sensitive to the situation prevailing there and that they will take proper action.

प्रो॰ राम देव भंडारी: माननीय सभापति जी, मंत्री जी ने अपने जवाब में कहा है कि साझे महत्व और हित के सभी मामलों पर विचार-विमर्श किया गया। मान्यवर, नेपाल से बड़ी-बड़ी

नदियां हर वर्ष बिहार में भारी बाढ़ लाती हैं और जानमाल का भारी नुकसान होता है। काफी वर्षों से नेपाल और भारत के बीच इस विषय पर वार्ता हो रही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इस बार जो प्रधान मंत्री का आगमन हुआ है, इन नदियों पर बांध बनाने के लिए और नियंत्रण करने के लिए क्या वार्ता हुई है? अगर हुई है तो कृपया जानकारी दें। धन्यवाद।

श्री सभापति: यह प्रश्न इसके परिव्यू में नहीं आता। अगर मंत्री जी जवाब देना चाहें, तो दे दें।

SHRI E. AHAMMED: I would need a notice on this supplementary.

श्री सभापति: डा॰ कर्ण सिंह ...*(Interruptions)*...

प्रो॰ राम देव भंडारी: महोदय, सभी विषयों पर बात हुई है।

श्री सभापति: नहीं, सब नीतियों पर नहीं है, यह माओइस्ट के संबंध में है।

प्रो॰ राम देव भंडारी: सर, साझे महत्व के सभी विषयों पर बात हुई है।

श्री सभापति: नहीं, वह नदियों का काम माओइस्ट के हाथ में अभी तक नहीं आया है। डा॰ कर्ण सिंह।

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the continuing insurgency, uncertainty and instability in Nepal is a matter of very grave concern to us and it directly affects our security. As my colleague has pointed out, a majority of districts in Nepal seem to be under the control of the Maoists, and it is quite clear that this is not a isolated insurgency. This is linked integrally with the Naxalite groups in the North-East, in Bihar, in Uttar Pradesh, in Andhra Pradesh, and maybe all the way down to Sri Lanka. I would like the hon. Minister to let us know two things; (a) whether steps have been taken with the Governments of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal, which are the neighbouring Governments of Nepal to strengthen the security apparatus there because the borders are extremely porous, and the Maoists have a clear run. They can come back and can go whenever they like, and that is very dangerous. And, (b) whether in view of the grave situation, —I am not sure whether the House is aware of the real gravity of the situation; everybody who comes from Nepal says that there is an air of uncertainty there and anything can happen at any time including a Maoists' take-over—the Government would assure the House that contingency plans are ready, and that, we will do whatever is necessary, not only to support the Nepalese Government

but also to strengthen our own security. Otherwise, this could be the beginning of an entire Naxalite-liberated zone in the whole of the North and the North-East of India, and a note of warning needs to be sounded.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): Sir, I am grateful to the hon. member for the views that he has expressed. The Government of India and all of us here are mainly concerned about the developments in Nepal and with the fact that the activities of the Maoists have, in the past few months, increased in a dramatic manner. Now, we are almost daily in touch with the authorities in Nepal including the concerned Ministers and also His Majesty. I do not to bring his name into the discussion here, but I only want to say that the Government of India is fully aware of implications of the intensification of the Maoist activity in Nepal, and its spill-over in India. The hon. Member has raised the point whether the concerned Ministries are aware of this. Yes, the concerned Ministries are very much aware of this and we shall keep the House informed, when necessary.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I can only share the concern of other hon. Members since the northern part of West Bengal is also affected because of the coordination that has now emerged between the extremist groups of the North-East and some of them spilling over to the northern parts of Bengal.

We appreciate the answer given by the Minister of state in so far as we are saying that it is only at the behest of the Nepalese Government that we can act. But, perhaps, where we could make a dent in this activity, or, have some kind of a positive influence, is to offer areas of cooperation where development can take place in Nepal. So, in that context, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, since Nepal is a landlocked country; and as we had committed in the past, whether we are providing them connectivity with the Kolkata Port. Has something happened on this?

SHRI E. AHAMMED: Sir, in general, as already mentioned in this House by my senior colleague, the Government of India is very much sensitive and very much aware of the situation there. At the same time, we have also got the SSB deployed on our borders to guard and protect our boundaries, as also to keep a watch over people who are committing crime on this or that side of the border.

Sir, I will be able to reply to this particular question of the hon. Member only after verifying whether there is any connectivity between Nepal and Kolkata Port. I will not be able to reply to it at this point of time.

श्री सभापति: माननीय विदेश मंत्री जी, यह मामला बहुत गंभीर है, मैं चाहूंगा कि इस विषय पर आप सदन को या सदन में पार्टी के, ग्रुप्स के नेताओं को विश्वास में लें।

श्री के॰ नटवर सिंह: सर, इसका पालन किया जाएगा।

Atomic power plants in the country

* 24. SHRI T.T. V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of atomic energy produced in the country and its percentage on the total generation of electricity;

(b) the target production of atomic energy during the Tenth Five Year plan period;

(c) whether the Government have any fresh proposals of atomic power plants in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) During the year 2003-04, the electricity generated from nuclear power was 17,861 Million Units (MUs). This is about 3.2% of the electricity generated by the utilities in the country. The generation for the period April-October 2004 has been 9,386 MUs.

(b) The target production of electricity from nuclear power stations for the 10th Plan is 82,495 MUs.

(c) and (d) In addition to the existing 14 nuclear power reactors of total capacity of 2770 MWe in operation, nine nuclear power reactors with total capacity of 4460 MWe are under construction. On completion of these projects progressively, the present installed nuclear power capacity will reach 6780 MWe (including 50 MWe by upgradation of MAPS-1 by December 2005) by 2008 and 7280 MWe by the year 2011-2012. Setting up of additional nuclear power plants in the tenth plan period and beyond is also planned. However, no detailed proposal in this regard is presently under consideration of Government.